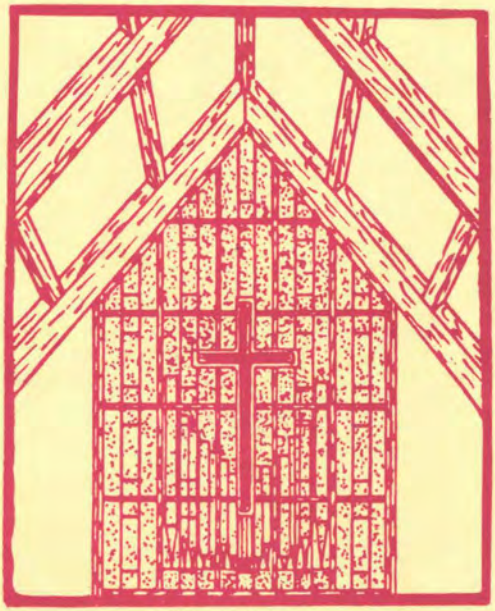


TWENTY MORE YEARS OF GREECE BAPTIST CHURCH

1964 – 1984

$1.00

TWENTY MORE YEARS OF GREECE BAPTIST CHURCH

1964 – 1984

By

John J. Jacobus, Historian

Baptistry Mural

The tree of life – the living vine,
The cleansing waters and cypress pine,
The rock, the mountain and the road,
Light and shadow, are His simple code.
Faith, hope, love, strength and divine peace–
the place of commitment where all torment cease.

DEDICATION

Kay Cole Irons
1918 - 1983
Member 1929

Clayton H. Olney
1920 - 1983
Member 1950

"By Their Works You Shall Know Them"

If Kay Cole Irons was our Artist in Residence then surely Clayton Olney was our Worker in Residence.

The Baptistry Mural, the Shepherd in the Garden, the Dean Portrait and the Bulletin Covers, many of which are bound in the booklet INSPIRATION, serve to remind us of Kay's broad interest in this Church.

Clayton was most visible as an Audio-Visual Arranger, usually for the use of others, but there were other areas in the Board of Deacons and in the Church School where he directed our attention to things worth while.

It is to these people that we dedicate this small volume.

DECADES SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN
TWENTY MORE
YEARS
OF
GREECE BAPTIST CHURCH
1964 – 1984

FOREWORD

To the Members of Greece Baptist Church: This Is Your Book. Your Pastors, Chairpersons, Secretaries and Clerks of Boards, Committees and Staff wrote five hundred pages of Annual Reports for the last twenty years of activity since our last formal history. It supplements and is compatible with *"From Strength To Strength,"* published in 1964.

Weekly BUILDERS and monthly Minutes of Boards and Committees could account for more than five thousand additional pages of data which, admittedly, were not perused in detail. Weekly Sermons and the efforts of our Christian Education teaching staff surely account for many more thousands of pages, to say nothing of the reels recorded by our Audio-Visual people. Reflect for a moment on the number of *"words"* used to accomplish our avowed purpose of spreading *"The Word"* and it will be understood why this chore is left to the Preaching Staff while we concentrate on our more prominent *"Acts."*

John J. Jacobus, Historian

DECADE SIXTEEN

1964 – 1974

The Rev. M. deForest Lowen

We are told by our Baptist and Government leaders that our Organizations are of the people, but we tend to identify our lives and times with the Minister or elected Official, thus we think of Washington's or Lincoln's time as well as the Hendrick or Dean years. It is not surprising, then, when Rev. Ralph Shotwell and his wife Virginia told us of their plans to move, that we reflected on the Shotwell years of building and were concerned with the unknown future.

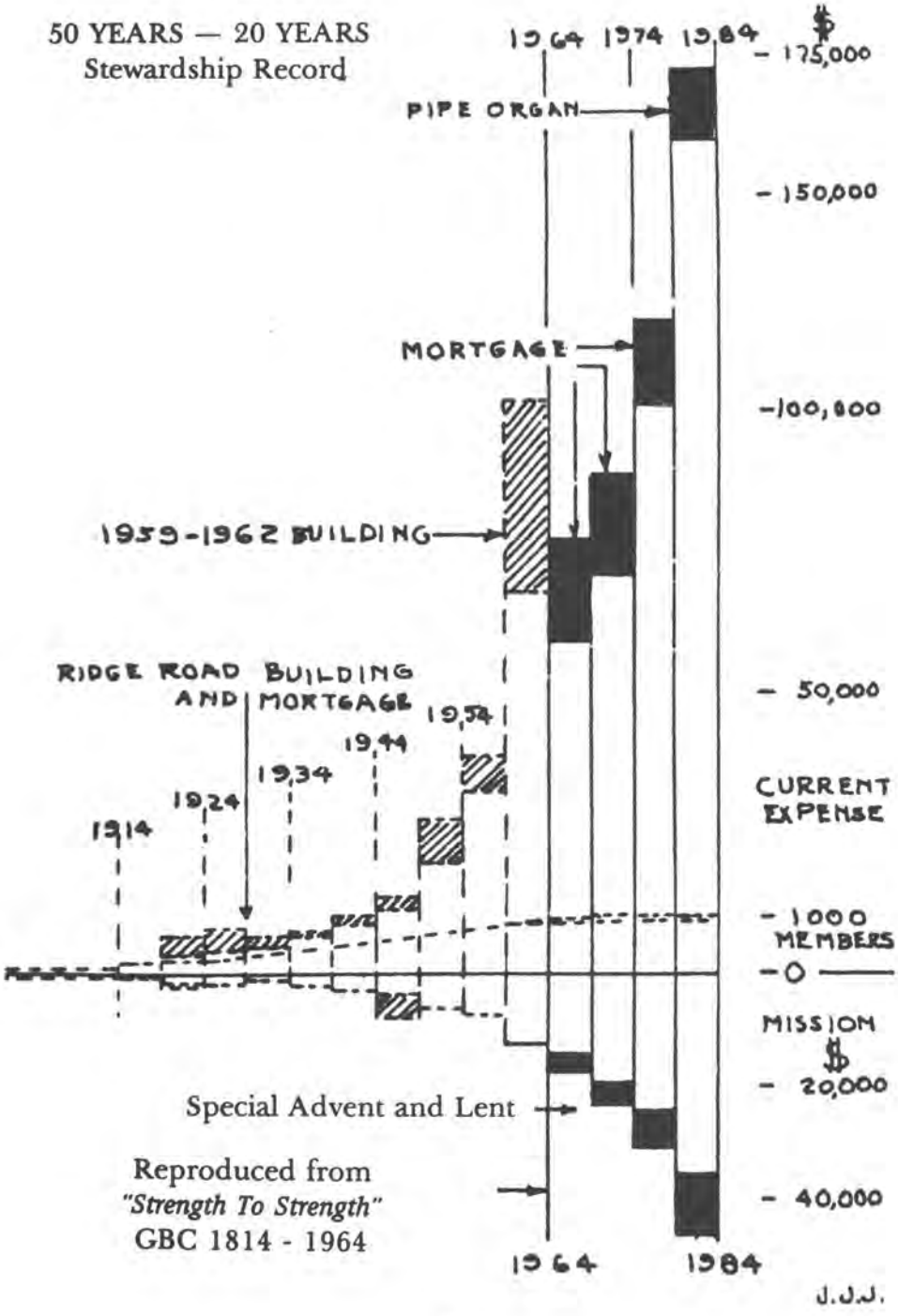
Rev. Robert Ketcham, Assistant Pastor, and his wife Luann continued with us and we were fortunate to find Dr. Oren Baker and his wife Margaret free to act again as Interim Senior Pastor, giving the Pulpit Committee ample time to review candidates and eventually present Rev. M. deForest Lowen and Thelma. This couple brought the new directions to our thinking and actions that follow.

Within a year we experienced another change of staff when the Robert Ketchams were succeeded by Rev. Charles and Nancy Christiansen as Associate Pastor and wife, who, among other duties, were in charge of educational programs and Student Assistants. Further Staff changes included an almost continuous association with Colgate Rochester Divinity School in the field of Student Ministry. Participants were: Warren Johnson, Stephen D. Edington, Sharon Happ, Donald K. Harrington, Edward Carey, Harold Morse, Maggie Welton, Nick Carter and Anthony Evans.

Mission Interest, previously sparked by the Abells in Zaire, the Winns in Burma and the Wheelers in Japan was fanned at the beginning of this decade by contact with Shadrack Kitswaka, a native of Zaire, studying Hospital Work in Rochester. Our Dr. Roy Cable's knowledge of Missionary Dan Fountain's work in that country was sufficient to motivate him to serve four months there. Dr. Cable's enthusiasm rubbed off on us to the extent that on Shadrack's return to Zaire, we found the means of providing him with a truck. This enabled him to greatly extend his field of operations. This Truck project coincided with the establishment of a Board of Missions which has sponsored other special Advent and Lenten non-budgeted projects, the financial extent of which is shown on the updated Stewardship Record. The chart on page 6 shows at a glance our financial situation for the past seventy years in five year increments. Budgeted items are shown light. Current Expenses are above and Missions are below the zero line, while special projects are shaded or shown dark and identified. Membership approaching 1000 is above the zero line.

Locally, our Ecumenical efforts were highlighted by pulpit exchanges with Canon Simpkins of St. Simon's Episcopal Church in Rochester and the participation of our teachers in their Educational Programs. Closer to home, The Greece Pastors Association became a regular forum for church leadership, while lay members of the various congregations cooperated in community committees such as GIFTS, FISH and Cooperative Vacation School.

The Ministerial Staff worked in a community that our national leaders told us was part of a *"New Frontier"* and a *"Great Society."* Electronics was miniaturizing computers which, combined with automation techniques previously unheard of, put a *"Man on the Moon"*. Locally we saw less spectacular Super Shopping Centers growing in our midst and another widening of Ridge Road, indicating an increase in the


50 YEARS — 20 YEARS
Stewardship Record
1964
1974
1984
$
175,000
PIPE ORGAN
150,000
MORTGAGE
100,000
1959-1962 BUILDING
RIDGE ROAD BUILDING AND MORTGAGE
1954
1944
1934
1924
1914
50,000
CURRENT EXPENSE
1000 MEMBERS
0
MISSION
$
20,000
Special Advent and Lent
40,000
Reproduced from
"Strength To Strength"
GBC 1814 - 1964
1964
1984
J.J.J.

population of the Town of Greece. One of the major tools in our work with the community was our new building which served us well, even to the extent of being available for a few worthy non-church organizations. We soon learned from our Trustees that buildings do not stay new very long and that we had to assist them in providing upkeep, both financially and with personal effort. This resulted in a series of *"work days"* that continues through the present. Our major capital improvement of the decade was the installation of Memorial Stained Glass Windows on the south and west sides of the Sanctuary. The symbolism of the six central windows is shown on pages 8 and 9.

We were pleased when our former Pastor, Dr. Fred E. Dean, returned to the neighborhood as Associate Pastor of Hilton Baptist Church. For some years he and his wife were honored, on the January Sunday nearest his birthday, in the Morning Service and Forum at Greece Baptist Church.

The Board of Christian Education and the Teaching Staff have continued their fine work with classes for all ages. While many Churches seem to be holding only their senior members, we seem to have attracted younger families to the extent that we are teaching in the halls and kitchen. The variety of subjects offered runs from basic Christian History in the form of Bible Stories for the youngest to forums of give and take for every age. The Forum for adults touches on Community Life, Politics, Ecumenical Relations, Missionary Reports and Divinity School level discussions.

In addition to fully using our facilities on Sunday mornings, we find many small groups meeting throughtout the week, both day and evening. Builder Staff, Choirs and Committees that keep Sunday services moving have regular schedules to follow, usually on a weekly basis. Boards, Women's Circles, Grown-Ups, Couples and 39er's meet monthly, while Community Groups not directly connected with the Church meet weekly or monthly as required.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS DEPICTING

CREATION

Alpha--Beginning
Hand of God
Dove of Creation
Face of Deep
Hand of Man

OLD TESTAMENT

Hand of God

Door marked
for Passover

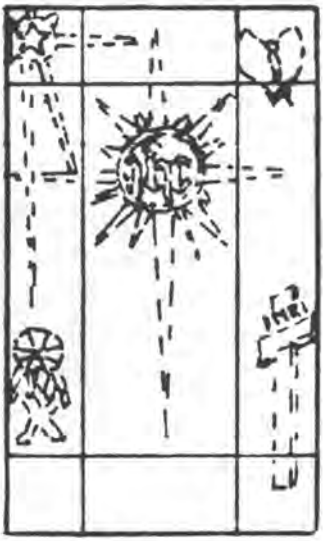
Dagger of
Abraham

Ladder of
Jacob

Burning Bush

Fire and Trumpet
of Restored
Temple

Ten Commandments



CHRIST

Star of
Bethlehem

Christ Child
in Manger

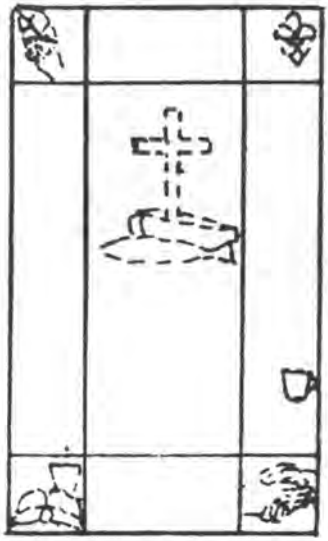
Butterfly of
Resurrection

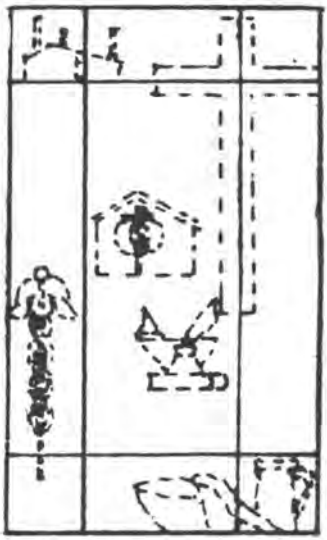
Cross of
Calvary

Radiant Cross

Greek
Abbreviation
of Jesus

"THE LOVE OF GOD"





J.J.J.

LOCAL CHURCH

Hand of Child in Hand of Adult

Goblet and Book of Worship and Ministry

Scouting

Coffee Cup of Small Groups

Hand of Fellowship

Ship with Cross

Symbol of Church

Fish Symbol of Faith

COMMUNITY

Suburban Dwelling

Roman Cross

Interlocking Circles of Love and Cross

Book, Inkwell and Torch of Truth

Industry

Medicine

Basin, Towel and Pitcher

WORLD MISSION

World

Cross of Christ

Rock of Ages

Races of Man

Omega---End

DECADE SEVENTEEN
1974 – 1984

The Rev. Charles F. Christiansen

When the Lowens reached normal retirement age we were prepared to accept the inevitable change. Rev. Charles F. Christiansen and Nancy, who had taken their places in the Church Family as Associate Pastor and wife, were soon called to the Senior Pastorship. Anthony L. Evans, one of our many Student Assistants, completed his Divinity School work in 1976 and we made another smooth transition as he and Priscilla became Associate Pastor and wife. Our participation in the Divinity School training program continued as we met and worked with Gary Irby, Joyce Molinari, James Hegley, Michael Scott, Lee Prong, Christopher Conlin and Carolyn Hughes.

We saw ourselves continuing in a Second Decade of Service in which the emphasis of Missions changed direction from Zaire to Haiti. Correspondence with the Heneise and Casseus families blossomed into team visits to the school we helped to start from discussions here. Hands-on help in the field has continued to the present writing and has been most rewarding to them and to us. We also found time to remember some people in our own Far West. The Mattocks of Arizona were visited three times by our Youth who contributed teaching time to their schools and returned with memorable experiences. This activity attested to the wisdom of establishing the Board of Missions in the prior decade.

A joint program of Youth Outreach shared by our Church and the Town of Greece saw the Coordinator's office in our building occupied successively by Janelle May, Jahn Forth-Finegan and Kirt Schutt. Not only have these coordinators worked with the High School Youth, they have contributed to our Sunday Church Service programs and Forum sessions.

Rev. Anthony L. Evans

Service projects that involved a cross section of the Congregation included a revival of the Country Store and Antique Show in the fall and Roast Beef Dinners in February. A series of Pictorial Directories to assist us in recognizing each other have been published every four or five years.

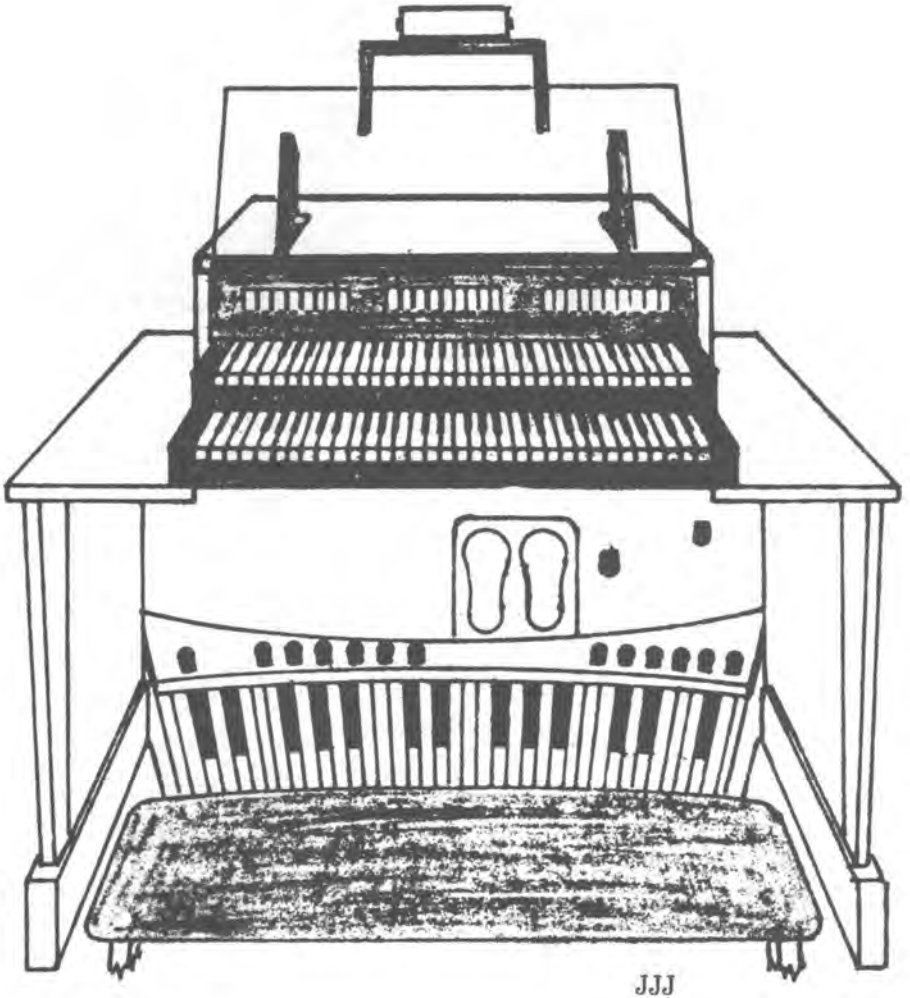
When Dr. Dean actually retired from the Hilton Baptist Church in 1978 he transferred his membership back to Greece Baptist, and is currently residing at the Fairport Baptist Home. Our Assembly Hall was designated Dean Hall and a Dean Community Service Fund was established with moneys contributed as a Memorial to Mrs. Dean.

A series of Caring Teams, composed of those willing and able to be trained to call on others whose limitations prevent active participation in church attendance, have been functioning about five years.

New York State Baptists have been hosted three times in this decade, beginning with the Youth in 1973, the Churches in 1979 and recently the Women in 1983.

One of our quieter contributions to the Community has been the maintenance and housing of an Emergency Food Shelf, which because of its personal nature, was not widely advertised.

The program has grown, it has become Ecumenical and the housing has been shifted. It deals with immediate problems not covered by longer range government solutions.



Pipe Organ Console

A program that advertises itself on week days is the Cooperative Nursery School which we house. The participants are most enthusiastic.

Our Educational efforts bend with the times and we continue to use all of our rooms plus the kitchen and hallway. For the last five years we have employed professional Directors of Religious Education. Linda Nortier was the first to serve as such and was followed by our current incumbent, Lynn Van Der Beck-Emmert.

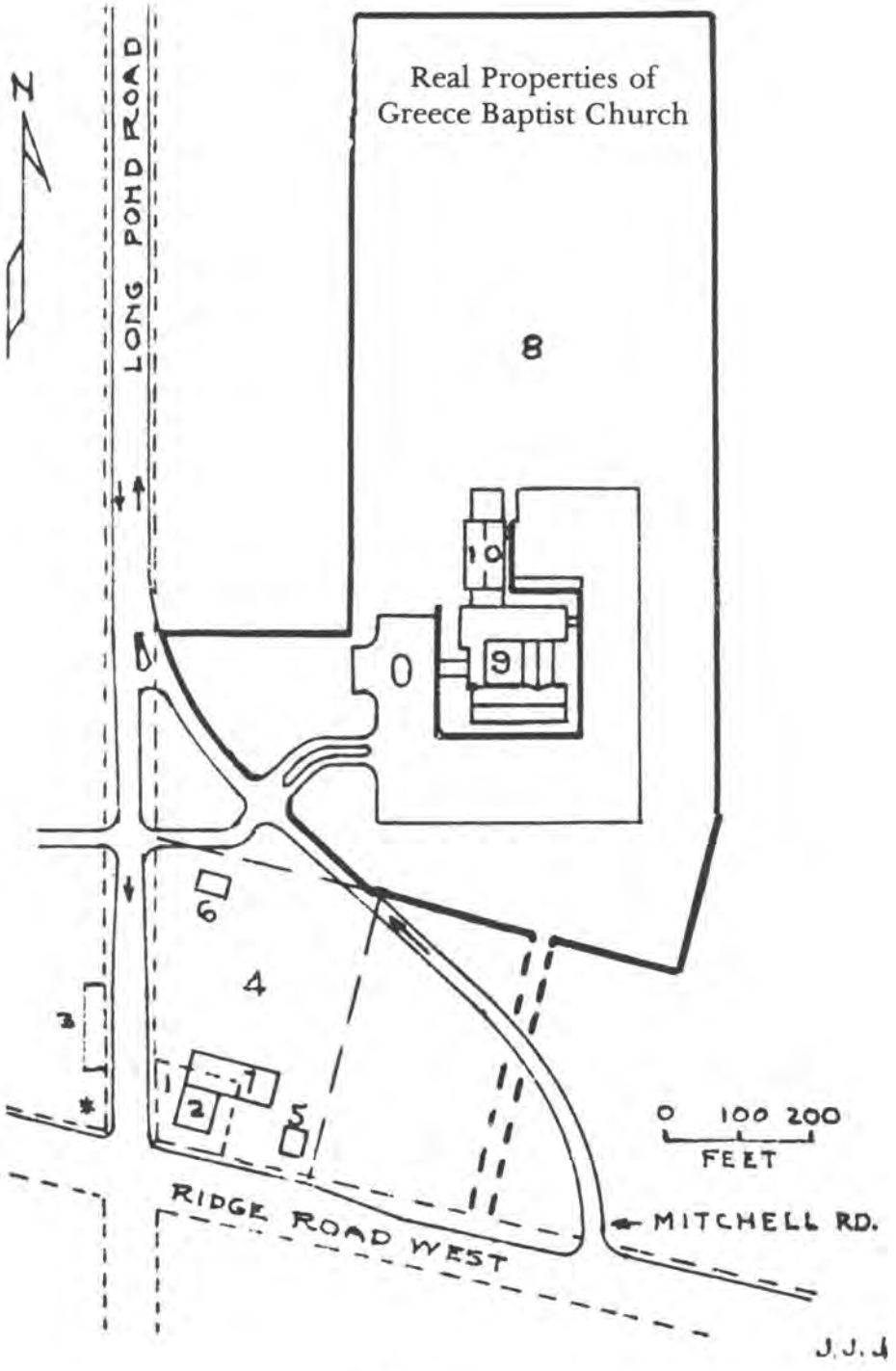
The Women's Society continues to coordinate the Circles and directs church-wide activities while the Men's Breakfast continues with outside contacts in the County. This decade saw Grown-Ups (Senior) 39'ers (Middle) and Couples Club (Younger) social groups promoting *"getting to know you"* programs as well as seasonal service projects.

Our physical plant and real properties were enhanced by Memorials within and Highway work outside. A Carillon with an outdoor speaker and a Pipe Organ have been installed in the Organ Loft over the Baptistry. The Organ is a Jardine built in 1894 for St. Patrick's Church in Buffalo and moved to Greece for rehabilitation and installation here. Additional ranks of pipes in the loft and a modern Console (page 12) adjacent to that of the Carillon were included in the project.

In 1979 our 20 year mortgage was burned in appropriate ceremonies making us free and clear once more. The location and extent of our real properties are shown on page 15, from Asa Rowe's original one half acre to our current position on Northbound Long Pond Road (Mitchell Road extended). The long discussed widening of Long Pond Road, plus three years of construction, resulted in traffic separation and a new vista of Greece Baptist Church.

LIST OF REAL PROPERTIES OF GREECE BAPTIST CHURCH

From		To
*– 1814	Log School House	1833
1-1832	½ Acre land from Asa Rowe	1962
2-1833	Brick Church	1962
3-1837	Horse and Buggy Sheds	1923
4-1865	2½ Acres Land	1962
5-1865	Parsonage	1962
6-1896	Sexton's House	1962
7-1923	Educational Addition	1962
8-1956	15 Acres Land	
9-1960	Phase I Present Building	
10-1962	Phase II Present Building	
8-1982	Mitchell Road extended to Long Pond Road	


Real Properties of
Greece Baptist Church
N
LONG POND ROAD
8
10
9
0
6
4
3
1
2
5
0 100 200
FEET
RIDGE ROAD WEST
MITCHELL RD.
J.J.J

Our Ministry of Music has been most effective over the past seven decades in that a mixture of our own amateur and some nearly professional grade talent has been encouraged by professional leadership. This last decade saw an unprecedented continuity of this leadership, under Edward Taylor Jr., that speaks for itself in every Sunday Service. It is in particular evidence at Christmas and Easter time when the Parish Choir is augmented by Brass Ensembles and/or other Instrumental Groups.

Rev. Lee E. Crane

Children's, Youth and Bell Choirs continue but change as the members progress from grade to grade and as leadership is available. They cannot be expected to be as stable as the Parish Choir. The same variations in membership apply to the more than one hundred young ladies in Junior and Senior High School who have participated in over ten years of Creative Movement - Sacred Dance Groups. In addition to taking part in our own services, they have appeared at County and State Conventions. This innovation is the result of work and leadership supplied by Priscilla Evans and Nancy Christiansen.

As we approach the close of our time period we should spend another moment with our pastors, thinking of those things done above and beyond the day to day calls of their regular duties in a busy suburban church. Rev. Charles F. Christiansen took some courses at Oxford, England, became Dr. Charles F. Christiansen at Drew University and later participated in one of the Haiti trips. Rev. Anthony L. Evans continued his education towards a Doctorate at CR/BH/C and went to Arizona with a Youth Group. After Rev. Evans accepted a call to be Senior Pastor at the Baptist Church in Olean New York, Rev. Lee E. Crane came with us in 1983 as Associate Pastor.

Continued From "STRENGTH TO STRENGTH" Page 75

SENIOR PASTOR

Lowen, M. deForest -
b Albany, New York, January 3, 1910;
BA Colgate U 1931;BD CRDS 1934;
ord Immanuel Baptist Rochester, NY 1934;
p First Baptist Brainbridge, NY 1935-1939; p First Baptist Brockport, NY 1939-1944; p Tabernacle Baptist Utica, NY 1944-1955; p Emmanuel Baptist Ridgewood, NJ 1955-1956; p Greece Baptist 1966-1974; retired to Saratoga Springs and Salem, NY 1974.

SENIOR PASTOR

CHRISTIANSEN, Charles F. -
b Staten Island, NY, May 26, 1931; BA Barrington C RI 1954; MA Syracuse U NY 1959; ord Staten Island, NY April 5, 1955; p Vestal, NY 1954-1958; p Burnt Hills, NY 1958-1966; assoc p Greece Baptist 1966-1974; M Div CR/BH/C 1971; p Greece Baptist 1974- ; DM Drew U NJ 1979

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

EVANS, Anthony L.-b Durham, NC April 24, 1951; BA Campbell C 1973; s asst p Greece Baptist 1974-1976; M Div CR/BH/C 1976; ord Greece Baptist 1976; associ p Greece Baptist 1976-1982; p First Baptist Olean, NY 1982 -

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

CRANE, Lee E.-b Cape May Court House, NJ June 28, 1953; BA Furman U SC 1976; M Div CR/BH/C 1979; ord Suffolk, VA 1980; s pastor Webster Baptist 1977-1978; s pastor Chili Baptist 1978-1980; assoc pastor Suffolk Baptist, VA 1980-1981; Chaplin-Counselor Hillside Center, Rochester, NY 1982-1983; assoc p Greece Baptist 1983-